



Overview of the President's Prisoner Re-Entry Initiative (PRI)

**ATR Summer 2006 Grantee
Conference**

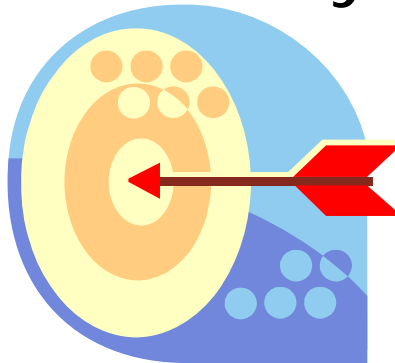
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Objective

- To reduce recidivism by helping returning prisoners find work when they return to their communities, as part of an effort to build a life in the community for everyone.





Background

- Each year more than 600,000 inmates are released from Federal and State prisons and return to their families and communities.
- Almost three out of five returning inmates will be charged with new crimes within three years of their release from prison and two out of five will be reincarcerated.
- Unemployment among ex-prisoners has been estimated at between 25% and 40%.



Employment Barriers of Released Prisoners

- **An estimated 40% of adult State prisoners are functionally illiterate, and over half of State parole entrants have not graduated from high school.**
- **An estimated 25% of State parolees had at some point in their lives been alcohol dependent and an estimated 25% had at one point been IV drug users.**
- **In some states, nearly a quarter of parole revocations are related to drug-related violations.**

Service Level Goals of PRI

- Plan to serve 6,250 released prisoners during the first year of this initiative.
- Projects operating in 30 communities across the country.
- Roughly 200 released prisoners served per site during first year.





Overall Structure

- Department of Labor (DOL) has awarded grants under this competition to faith-based and community organizations (FBCOs) in November 2005.
- Department of Justice will award competitive grants to State agencies to provide pre-release services to prisoners who will be returning to the communities served by the DOL grants.



What types of communities will be the focus of these grants?

- We have awarded grants to serve urban communities that are heavily impacted by large number of prisoners returning to their community each year.



Who is eligible to be served under these grants?

- Individuals 18 years and older
- Who has been convicted as an adult & imprisoned pursuant to an Act of Congress/a State law, and
- Who has never been convicted of a violent/sex-related offense can be served with these grants.



How long after release can individuals be enrolled in the program?

- **Ideally, immediately. Individuals will receive pre-release services and go directly into the program upon release.**
- **Individuals should be enrolled in the program within 180 days after their release from prison/halfway house.**
- **Up to 10% of individuals served can be enrolled over 180 days from their prison release.**
- **Services may be provided to individuals who have been released from prison & are residing in a halfway house.**



Non-violent Offenses

- Non-violent offenses are those offenses described in State and Federal statutes encompassing property crime, drug offenses; and public order crimes.
- Property crimes include, but are not limited to: burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, and receiving stolen property.
- Drug crimes include, but are not limited to: possession of a controlled substance, trafficking in a controlled substance, and possession of drug paraphernalia.
- Public order offenses include, but are not limited to: commercial vice, gambling, animal cruelty, and driving while intoxicated.



Key Outcomes

- Increased Employment
- Increased Employment Retention
- Increased Earnings, and
- Reduced Recidivism



Allowable Uses of Grant Funds



- Grant funds can be used to provide a variety of services to returning prisoners:
 - workforce development services
 - job training, on-the-job training
 - work experience
 - basic skills remediation
 - counseling
 - case management
 - Mentoring
 - other reentry services



Not Allowable Uses

- DOL grant funds may not be used for substance abuse treatment services.
- DOL grant funds should also not be used for pre-release services other than recruitment, introductory meetings, orientations, and other activities necessary to establishing program connections with prisoners prior to their release.
- The DOJ Grant to State agencies will provide pre-release services.



Housing

- Funds are not currently available under this initiative to provide housing services for participants.
- The grants will require that linkages be developed at each site to provide necessary housing services to participants.
- Subject to the availability of appropriations, Federal funds to provide housing services may be added to these grants in future years.



Mentoring

- FBCOs will provide post-release mentoring and other services essential to reintegrating ex-offenders in coordination with the corrections, parole, and probation structure.
- Participating adult ex-offenders will be matched with appropriate mentors who will be primarily responsible for supporting the returnee in the community and the work place.



Employment Efforts

- Assessments;
- Getting offenders placed quickly after their release;
- Follow-up services;
- Working with employers;
- Links to One-Stop Centers;
- Links to community colleges and trade schools for training;
- Addressing low reading and math levels;
- Addressing transportation issues.



Coordination with criminal justice system

Grantees must collaborate with corrections agencies that will:

- Identify participants prior to release, including a referral and intake process from State or Federal prisons, and in some case, local jails.
- Identify specific needs of those participating in the program.
- Enable employment with identified program participants to begin within 6 months after release.
- Facilitate access to corrections facility for work with offenders prior to release.
- Coordinate provision of services and mentoring with community supervision.



Coordination with Local Parole & Law Enforcement Officials

- Released offenders often have terms of post-release supervision that may include reporting requirements, drug and/or alcohol treatment, counseling, etc.
- Failure to meet the terms of release often results in revocation of probation or parole.
- Grantees must have a partnership with law enforcement, including police, probation and parole, to ensure coordination and cooperation in accessing services to fulfill these terms of release.



Preference for Veterans

- This program is subject to the provisions of the “Jobs for Veterans Act,” Public Law 107-288, which provides priority of service to veterans and spouses of veterans.
- To obtain priority of service, a veteran must meet the program’s eligibility requirements.
- Additional guidance is available at the “Jobs for Veterans Priority of Services Website” (<http://www.doleta.gov/programs/VETS/>).



PRI Grants

- Total award amount of \$19.6 million
- No funds are currently available for new competition
- Existing grants will be funded at least through Nov 2007
- For additional information, go to:
<http://www.doleta.gov/PRI/>